

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112; Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Webster, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,227,516, herein "Webster"); and Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Francovich, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,547, herein "Francovich").

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicant's representative on September 11, 2006. During the interview, differences between the present invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. The Examiner agreed that the claims as amended distinguished over the art of record. However, no agreement as to allowability was reached as the amended form of the claims required further searching. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claim 11 has been amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Webster. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a screwless apparatus for attaching a computer drive to a computer chassis. The screwless apparatus includes a mounting clip and a securing clip. The mounting clip is coupled to an outer surface of the computer chassis and has one or more flexible tabs projecting outwardly from the outer surface. The securing clip is detachably coupled to the mounting clip. The securing clip is configured for selective engagement with the mounting clip and the computer drive. The securing clip includes a

securing pin configured to protrude through the computer chassis and selectively engage a screw hole of the computer drive, and one or more flexible tabs configured for selective engagement with the one or more flexible tabs of the mounting clip.

Similarly, amended independent Claims 4, 9 and 13 also include a mounting clip coupled to an outer surface of a computer chassis and having one or more flexible tabs projecting outwardly from the outer surface. A securing pin is configured to protrude through the computer chassis and selectively engage a screw hold of a computer drive.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 1-4 illustrate that detachable securing clip 1 includes flexible tabs 8 and securing pins 2 and that clip mounting features 3 are attached to an outer surface of the chassis 4. Securing pins 2 of the securing clip 1 are positioned through pin alignment holes 7 of the chassis 4 and into standardized screw holes 6 of a computer drive. The securing clip 1 is detachably attached to the computer chassis 4 by resiliently engaging flexible tabs 8 with clip mounting features 3 which project outwardly from the outer surface. Thereby, securing clip 1 is configured to selectively engage the clip mounting features 3 and the computer drive. See also page 3, line 16 to page 4, line 7.

Webster does not teach or suggest a securing clip that is detachably coupled to an outer surface of the computer chassis. Instead, Webster discloses a latching mechanism 31 that is “permanently mounted” in side walls 17 of tray 11. See column 2, lines 4-20. Webster further does not teach or suggest a mounting clip having one or more flexible tabs projecting outwardly from an outer surface of the computer chassis. Additionally, Webster does not teach or suggest a screwless apparatus that includes both a mounting clip and a securing clip. Instead, Webster merely discloses a latching mechanism 31 and an elongated groove or channel 33 in side walls. See column 2, lines 5-10. Applicant respectfully submits that the elongated groove or channel disclosed by Webster is not equivalent to the mounting clip of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Francovich. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Francovich does not teach or suggest a securing clip that is detachably coupled to a mounting clip that is coupled to an outer surface of the computer chassis. Francovich discloses a U-shaped mounting bracket 90 which facilitates slidable insertion of a computer drive into channels of housing 86. See Fig. 9; col. 6, lines 46-48. Four pins 94 are provided such that they may protrude within threaded apertures 76 of a computer drive 70 without threaded engagement. See Figs. 8; col. 5, lines 50-53. Outwardly projecting tabs 96 are provided to engage within slots 98 in housing 86. See Fig. 9; col. 6, lines 54-57. As such, slots 98 are permanently formed in housing 86 and, thus, not detachable. Francovich further does not teach or suggest a mounting clip having one or more flexible tabs projecting outwardly from an outer surface of the computer chassis. Additionally, Francovich does not teach or suggest a screwless apparatus that includes both a mounting clip and a securing clip. Instead, Webster merely discloses projecting tabs 96 and slots 98 in housing 86. Applicant respectfully submits that slots 98 disclosed by Francovich are not equivalent to the mounting clip of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

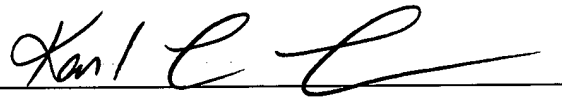
CONCLUSION

In light of the arguments set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

A two month extension of time fee of \$450.00 is due at this time and the Commissioner is authorized by the Applicant to charge this amount as well as any credits or additional fees that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-0153. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's Attorney for any reason that would advance the current application to issue. Please reference Attorney Docket No. 124795-1004.

Dated: September 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Karl L. Larson', written over a horizontal line.

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